

REMARKS

In a non-final Action mailed 17 December 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 13 under 35 USC 102(b) and indicated claims 4-12 and 14-18 were directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 4-12 and 14-18 were objected to as depending from rejected base claims.

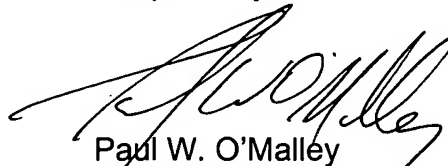
The rejection of claims 1-3 and 13 as anticipated was based on McWilliams, US-Patent 3,921,320. McWilliams shows "an I-beam 210 suitably applied affixed to the vehicle roof . . .". It was unclear from the description whether the I-beam functioned as a roof support, its sole disclosed purpose being to provide "roller ways 212" for a trolley 82. It is clear though that I-beam 210 is a one piece element.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to require that the chord (i.e. the upper member) of the roof support of the present invention and the base member (i.e. the lower member) exhibit spacing from one another, at least along a portion of their lengths. The I-beam 210 of McWilliams exhibits no such gap between its upper and lower sections. Accordingly the claims, as amended, cannot be anticipated. Support for the amendment may be found in paragraphs [0021] and [0022] of the present application. There it is clearly stated that room is present to pass ventilation ducts between the chord and base member and that the ends of the two members are disposed "closer" to one another than the centers of the members. The amendments to the claims emphasize that the chord and the base member elements of claims 1 and 13 are distinct components.

The remaining dependent claims recite still further elements distinguishing the invention over the prior art.

Applicant believes the Claims as amended, or newly submitted, are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable action by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. W. O'Malley", written over the printed name.

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